REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE

Export Trade from GREAT-BRITAIN to the EAST-INDIES,

UPON THE

Subject of any CLAIMS that may arise on the Part of IRELAND to a Participation in the INDIAN and CHINA TRADE.

PRINTED BY THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

FOR THE

INFORMATION OF THE PROPRIETORS.

East Indies

East India Company

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REPORT, &c.

YOUR Committee, in conſequence of the Court's Reference of the 16th Inſtant, having taken into Conſideration any Claims that may poſſibly ariſe, on the Part of Ireland, to a Participation in the Indian and China Trade, your Committee beg leave to ſubmit to the Court the following Obſervations; on which they muſt premiſe, that it has been found impoſſible to avoid, in a few Inſtances, the Repetition of Facts and Reaſoning ſtated in their former Reports.

At the ſame Time the Importance of the Objects of your Committee's preſent Conſideration, and the Shortneſs of the Time allotted for them to report the Reſult of their Inveſtigation, render it particularly neceſſary to claim the Court's Indulgence for any Errors and Omiſſions that may appear in this Report.

As the Views and Expectations of Ireland are not defined, it is difficult to underſtand what particular Points may require Information and Remark. However, a general Diſcuſſion may become uſeful, if not neceſſary.

In what Manner is it expected that Ireland ſhould participate? Is it

Upon ſome Plan of Union with the Engliſh Company?
For the Purpoſe of eſtabliſhing an Excluſive or Regulated Trade in Ireland?
Or, for the Purpoſe of a Free Trade in Ireland?

With regard to the Firſt, ſuppoſing that the Engliſh Company were diſpoſed to liſten to the Propoſition, it is probable that Ireland would heſitate, when told of the immenſe Expence with which it muſt be accompanied.

If it ſhall be in contemplation to form a Company with excluſive Privileges, where, and how are the neceſſary Eſtabliſhments to be formed in India without endangering the Safety of the Empire?

And with reſpect to a Free Trade, it is preſumed that Ireland will be too wiſe ever to harbour ſuch a Thought, as it would infallibly drain the Country both of Men and Money, neither of which can be ſpared. Such is the Infatuation of the lower Claſs of People relative to the imaginary Wealth of India, and ſuch the Diſpoſition in Ireland to emigrate, that a free Navigation and Trade will go conſiderable Lengths towards impoveriſhing and depopulating the Country.

But, for the Purpoſe of a general Diſcuſſion, it becomes neceſſary to advert to firſt Principles.

Ireland never contributed towards the Acquiſitions. It is not the Work of a Year, perhaps not of an Age, to build up an Eaſt-India Company to Perfection, although it may be deſtroyed in a Day. This is viſible from the Fate of almoſt every Company in Europe, except our own.

Ireland muſt, therefore, previous to any Arrangement, contribute her Proportion towards our Dead Stock, bad Debts, heavy Loſſes, and numerous miſcellaneous Expences, which will, no doubt, far exceed its value.

She muſt, moreover, allot a Proportion of the Company's annual Expence at all the commercial Eſtabliſhments, and a further Sum towards their general Protection and Defence for political Purpoſes.

In the firſt Inſtance, Ireland muſt pay more than the Value of any Conceſſions which can be made to her. In the ſecond, the annual Expence will far exceed the moſt ſanguine Expectation of Profit, and be not unlikely to exceed the total Amount of the annual Trade.

Theſe Points are more properly commercial, and ſome Parts will be further elucidated hereafter; but there are others far more important, and which will ſwallow up every Object of private Advantage, under a Conſideration of the more or leſs degree of Danger to the whole.

The Empire in India is held, and depends altogether upon Opinion, which muſt be ſhaken, if not annihilated, ſhould the Natives perceive the Subjects of the ſame Sovereign, ſpeaking the ſame Language, independent, in any Reſpect whatſoever, of the oſtenſible Government of the Country. Such a Circumſtance muſt, at the ſame time, occaſion Diſputes and Quarrels between the Engliſh and Iriſh in India, which will produce Diſcontent at Home, and may prove the Cauſe of further ill Conſequences.

If Ireland expects to maintain Eſtabliſhments of her own, they muſt be numerous, or they will be nugatory. In that Caſe it will require the moſt ſerious Conſideration in what Parts of India thoſe Eſtabliſhments can be permitted with Safety to the Empire. At all events the Iriſh cannot be permitted to roam over the Country, but muſt ſubmit to the ſame Reſtrictions with Britiſh Subjects; which they being averſe to do, will, conſequently, be ſent to Europe under Reſtraint. This will prove a further Cauſe for Diſcontent.

It is therefore evident, for theſe and many other Reaſons, that the Queſtion never can be conſidered as purely Commercial either for Ireland or for Great-Britain. If Ireland ſhould entertain the chimerical Idea of forming Eſtabliſhments, &c. independant of the Engliſh Company, the Expence muſt be far more conſiderable; ſhe muſt cultivate the Friendſhip of the Native Princes with Preſents, &c. which, excluſive of the Conſequences that will reſult from a Competition, muſt prove the ruin of the Adventurers in a very few Years, whilſt on the other hand the Country will be expoſed to Emigration, and Nine Parts in Ten of the Exports from Ireland muſt conſiſt of Bullion.

Previous to the acquiſition of the Territorial Revenues, the Engliſh Company for the Purpoſe of purchaſing their Inveſtments in India and China, frequently exported leſs than One Fourth Part in Manufactures and Produce, the Remainder conſiſting of Bullion.

In thoſe Times the Engliſh Company were very unpopular; and, notwithſtanding all their Exertions, they found it difficult to extend the Export of Manufactures and Produce, although it would have proved convenient to their Finances, as they received Credit for thoſe Articles, whilſt they paid ready Money for Bullion. It is further remarkable, that during the Period alluded to, it was aſſerted and never contradicted that England exported a larger Value in Produce and Manufactures, than all the reſt of Europe combined.

In the preſent Times every Article of Manufacture will be furniſhed from home. It is the anxious deſire of the Engliſh Company to ſupply India and China with every Article of Britiſh Manufacture and Produce at Prime Coſt, as the beſt and moſt ſubſtantial Return they can make to the Public, for their Excluſive Privilege. Conſequently, Ireland can poſſeſs very few Means of purchaſing an Inveſtment in India and China, except with Bullion. Her Manufactures have not ſucceeded. The Chineſe ſay, with regard to Poplins and Tabbinets, that they have ſimilar Articles in China, and at a cheaper Rate. The Others are not neceſſary to be mentioned. App. No. 1.

If any Meaſures ſhall be adopted which may give birth to a Competition or Conteſt between the two Countries, for the Indian and China Trade, it may terminate in a Manner ſimilar to that between the two rival Companies formerly in England: both muſt ſuffer, but one will be ruined.

It is probable that the Expectations of Ireland may have been excited, if not raiſed highly, by the Views of Individuals, who may hope to participate in a clandeſtine Trade; againſt which, the good Senſe of Government, as well as of the Country, would revolt, under a fair and impartial View of the Subject. For this Reaſon it may be neceſſary to conſider in what manner Ireland will be affected on the preſent Occaſion, and can participate with Advantage, either in the fair or Illicit Trade, with India and China.

If it ſhall appear that Ireland can only trade in a very limited Manner, and under Diſadvantage, the Queſtion will be very nearly diſcuſſed under the Head of Fair Trade, to which theſe Obſervations will be confined for the Preſent.

The Expectations of Ireland, like thoſe of any other Country, can extend no further than,

First, The Expectation of her Manufactures and Produce.

Second, The Importation of Raw Materials.

Third, The Importation of Indian and Chineſe Articles conſumed at home.

Fourth, The Carrying Tade; and,

Finally, Employ for her Shipping.

With

With regard to the First, it becomes neceſſary to aſk, what are the Articles of Manufacture and Produce which Ireland can furniſh, that are proper for the Conſumption of warm Climates? Her Linens are much inferior, both in convenience and cheapneſs, to the Manufactures of the Eaſt; and in other Articles (if there are any) ſhe will always find a Competition on the part of Great-Britain, whoſe Manufactures will be ſold at Prime Coſt, and free of Freight.

Theſe circumſtances, independent of the Superiority of thoſe Exports, in ſome Reſpects, will ſoon check Competition on the part of an Iriſh Company, or of Individuals. For if an excluſive Company ſhould be eſtabliſhed, or a Free Trade permitted in Ireland, a jealouſy muſt for ever ſubſiſt, and a conteſt muſt ariſe, which, while it is productive of Injury to Great Britain, will prove the Ruin of the Parties in Ireland. And, ſo long as this Conteſt ſubſiſts, Ireland will have to provide the Inveſtments in India and China under great Diſadvantage and heavy Loſs, or ſhe muſt ſend Bullion for the Purpoſe as before-mentioned.

The Exportation of the Manufactures and Produce of a Country is always of the higheſt Importance; and when the various Points which have been enumerated are combined with the actual Capacity and Situation of Ireland, in the preſent Moment, it may be conſidered as the prominent Feature of the Whole. If that is the Caſe, it cannot be ſound Policy to provoke a Conteſt with the Engliſh Company, whoſe Powers, either excluſive or corporate, will ever be amply ſufficient to fruſtrate any Expectation of Succeſs, as their regular uniform Syſtem would produce that Effect independent of a Line of Conduct which it might be neceſſary for them to purſue in their own Defence.

It may therefore deſerve the ſerious Conſideration of Ireland, whether, inſtead of engaging in a Conteſt which muſt prove extremely injurious to herſelf, ſhe cannot ſuggeſt a Mode of obtaining through the Medium of the Engliſh Company, thoſe Advantages which ſhe may hope to derive under the moſt ſucceſsful Competition? The Engliſh Company have invariably conducted themſelves in the moſt liberal Manner: They will be happy to promote, by every Means in their Power, the Proſperity of Ireland, and will oppoſe the Wiſhes of Ireland in no Inſtance, except in thoſe which may be prejudicial to herſelf.

The Importation of Raw Materials is deſirable from every Country: but it muſt be always combined with a Conſideration in what Manner they can be paid for. If Ireland can procure Cotton, Silk and Indigo, in return for Linens, Grain and Proviſions, ſhe will prefer ſuch a Traffick to that of ſending Bullion to India and China for their Purchaſe in thoſe Countries. But this Subject, and thoſe which remain for Diſcuſſion, are in a conſiderable Degree interwoven with each other; and therefore although they will be noticed in their Turn, yet, it is not poſſible to conſider them as ſeparate and diſtinct Queſtions.

The ſame Remark applies equally to the Articles neceſſary for the Conſumption of Ireland; namely, in what Manner they are to be paid for. And from what has already been ſaid, it cannot be doubted, that for every Article imported from India and China into Ireland, at leaſt Nine Parts in Ten muſt be paid for in Bullion.

And

And it must be remembered that for so distant a Trade, requiring near Two Years to obtain Returns, the Demand may vary; the Taste, Disposition, and Fashions of the Consumers will change; which renders a Surplus Stock necessary; and this cannot be finally disposed of but through the Medium of the carrying Trade, which renders a Consideration of the Situation of Ireland in that respect necessary.

The Consumption of Raw Materials, and every Indian and Chinese Article, except Tea, is very small in Ireland; and there are Countries which consume more Tea than Ireland, considering Great Britain out of the Question. It is moreover presumed, that Ireland will not encourage the Consumption of other Manufactures in preference to her own.

Most of the Countries which Trade with India and China, consume more or less Tea; but all of them possess the Means of selling to greater Advantage the Manufactures and Raw Materials which they import from the East. Consequently, if Ireland possesses a Surplus Stock, without which the Trade cannot be carried on to Advantage, she will encounter accumulated Loss in the Disposal of that Stock.

She cannot look to America, which enjoys some Advantages superior to Europe. But even with those Advantages, America begins to perceive her Interest will be to purchase in Europe. And in respect to every other Port or Place from the North of Europe to the Bay of Biscay inclusive, which comprehends almost the Whole of the Demand, they are supplied much cheaper and better than Ireland can expect, either by Means of their own Importations or through the Medium of the English Company.

There are at the same Time some Advantages possessed by Foreigners, which do not appertain to Ireland, viz. large Capitals at a low Rate of Interest, and their Products and Manufactures of Wines, Naval and Military Stores, and Metals, which they export, and thereby secure some Part of the Cost of their Investment in India and China, without being under the necessity of sending out the whole Amount of the Cost of their Investment in Bullion. Their Ships thus earn a Freight outward-bound, while it is evident that Ships from Ireland must proceed empty.

It is besides worthy of Notice, that although foreign Ships may carry Woollens or any other Manufacture, British or Foreign, yet it is notorious that they chiefly confine themselves to the Articles already enumerated, and which cannot extend to any great Amount in point of Value, Silver excepted. Thus Experience has proved the Incapacity of any Country whatsoever to enter into a Competition with Great Britain for the Articles of her own Produce and Manufacture.

In addition to these Facts, it may be deemed a fortunate Circumstance for Ireland that she can advert to foreign Companies, and foreign Adventurers, for the Purpose of deciding upon her own Conduct on the present Occasion; as their Fate may induce her to avert those Dangers which will otherwise ensue, by a wise and prudent Forbearance, instead of engaging in the Pursuit of a Phantom, which must infallibly mislead.

The

The Swediſh Company's Trade was ſolely with China, depending for the Vent of Tea on the Britiſh Smuggler. This was greatly checked by the Commutation Act, and is at preſent almoſt annihilated.

The Daniſh China Company was, and is nearly in the ſame Predicament with that of Sweden.

The Daniſh India Company, after ſtruggling many Years, is ruined.

The Embden Company is not worth Notice, further than to remark, that it has ſhared the ſame Fate with the Reſt.

The Dutch Company, notwithſtanding her Monopoly of Spices, her numerous Poſſeſſions, and many other Advantages, is not in the moſt proſperous Way; and with a Debt of near Ten Millions Sterling to the States of Holland, the Payment of which is very doubtful.

The Company eſtabliſhed ſome Years ſince, in the Low Countries, under the Title of the Trieſte Company, ſoon failed, having loſt the Whole of their Capital although powerfully ſupported.

Thoſe of France have been numerous, but unfortunate: the preſent Company however, ſhould be excepted. It is conducted upon a Plan different from any other, is purely Commercial, and has wiſely reſerved to itſelf the ſupplying the Conſumption of France through the Medium of the Engliſh Company.

Portugal never had a regular Company; and thoſe of Spain are not worth remark, further than that no Inſtance appears of their Succeſs.

With regard to private Adventurers. Thoſe of Sweden, if any, have ſcarcely been heard of. In Denmark ſeveral were ſucceſsful until the Engliſh Preſidencies in India were permitted to draw for the Liquidation of their Debts upon the Company at home. Since that Period, very heavy Loſſes have happened in Denmark, and the Trade has been almoſt annihilated. Thoſe from Oſtend, France and Portugal, if we may judge from the Failures which have happened, and the very few Inſtances of Affluence appearing amongſt the Houſes which have followed this Buſineſs, are not in a much better Situation. But on a Subject ſo very wide and diffuſe, the faireſt Criterion would be to bring forward Inſtances of Succeſs, which are rare, whilſt thoſe of Miſcarriage are numerous. It muſt however be underſtood, that in this Detail of the Situation of Companies and private Adventurers, the Facts alluded to have happened many Years ſubſequent to the Acquiſition of the Duannee; and, in general, ſubſequent to the Commutation Act.

The Advantages which the Engliſh Company enjoy over Foreigners and Individuals, in procuring their Inveſtments in India and China, are ſuch as cannot be done away, in Conſequence of any Diſadvantage whatſoever which they may labour under. And after all the Inveſtigation of the Company's Commerce that has taken place, the ſingle Article in which it is ſuppoſed that economy can be materially practiſed is that of Freight.

The Amount paid by the Company annually for Freight is very large: and when private Perſons are acquainted with the Price, they entertain an Opinion that a lucrative Trade can be carried on merely upon the ſaving to be made in the Freight.

Numerous

Numerous Circumſtances concur to induce the Company to pay ſo high a Price; and many will concur to prevent Individuals reaping that Advantage which they may expect on the firſt View of the Subject.

The Company do not conſider their Ships as applicable ſolely to commercial Purpoſes. They muſt take into Conſideration the enormous Capital employed by the Owners of Shipping, being from £. 1,600,000 to £. 1,800,000. And the Company being their own Inſurers in War as well as in Peace, they muſt allow for their Ships being well fitted, armed and manned.

The Ships proper for the Company being of a particular and ſuperior Conſtruction, they muſt make it worth the Attention of Perſons concerned in this Line to keep a ſufficient Number ready in War as well as in Peace.

But as the Principles upon which the Engliſh Company ought to conduct herſelf under an Excluſive Trade, may not be ſtrictly applicable to the Object under Conſideration; let it be admitted, that Ships fitted out by Individuals may ſail for a Freight leſs than what the Company uſually pay.

Such Ships will have leſs expended upon their Outfit; will carry One-Third fewer Men; will be incapable of Defence in caſe of an Attack; and be liable to damage their Cargoes for want of the Precautions taken by the Company in the Outfit. Individuals will likewiſe depend on a quick Diſpatch from India, a full Cargo home, with ſome Aſſiſtance out: and under theſe Circumſtances it is admitted that Ships may ſail cheaper.

But for this Purpoſe, it is abſolutely neceſſary that Ship and Cargo ſhould be One Concern; at leaſt, if a Judgment can be formed from the preſent Practice on the Continent. Of the ſlender Remains of the Indian and China Trade by Foreigners, compared to what it has been, the larger Proportion belongs, at preſent, to Oſtend; and, therefore, forms the beſt Datum for a Compariſon. The Freight on Goods outward from Oſtend to India is £. 10 per Ton Meaſurement, to be paid on ſhipping. From India to Oſtend is,

On Fine Piece Goods and Indigo — —	£. 20 per Ton.
On Coarſe Bale Goods — —	15 Ditto.
On Cotton in Large Bales — —	6 Ditto.

In conſequence of the Convulſions at St. Domingo, the high Price of Sugar, and Want of Saltpetre, the Engliſh Company were induced to take up Two Ships for the Seaſon 1791-2, diſmantled, and navigated in the cheapeſt Manner, with a View to a Reduction in the Rate of Freight. Thoſe Ships were hired at £. 8 per Ton outward, and £. 12 per Ton homeward.

It is therefore evident that the Company labor under no Diſadvantage in this Reſpect, compared with general Ships. And if the Ship and Cargo ſhall be One Concern, in caſe they do not meet with a Cargo in India or China, but are obliged to remain there for a Seaſon, their Voyage is ruined.

As there is a Conſumption of Tea to a certain Extent in Ireland, it may be urged that ſhe can always follow that Branch to advantage if the other ſhall fail, and therefore ſome further Detail may be requiſite. In regard to the

Freight which the Company pay on their China Ships there is not the ſame Latitude for Economy; for by increaſing their Size the Price of Freight has been conſiderably reduced, whilſt Competition, in every Line, is vaniſhing. This will be better explained by a few Facts.

SWEDEN and DENMARK uſed to receive Six or Seven Ships annually, and ſome very large. They are now content with One alternately.

HOLLAND uſually Four Cargoes; now One or Two.

FRANCE from Two to Four Cargoes; now One ſmall Cargo, which they cannot ſell.

PORTUGAL from Two to Seven Cargoes annually; laſt Year One; the preſent Year none.

AMERICA, it appears, had Fifteen Ships in 1789; laſt Year none.

In the Year 1791 the Whole of the Arrivals on the Continent conſiſted of
One Daniſh,
One Dutch,
One French, and
One Portugueze Ship.

We have not the Particulars of the Arrivals in 1792; but we know that Tea is more difficult to ſell, and lower upon the Continent than it was in 1791; indeed, ſelling for leſs than the Coſt.

It is yet too early to form a Judgment of what may be the final Reſult of the Communication between America, India and China; but it is, by no Means, in a flouriſhing Situation at preſent. In conſequence of the Number of their Ships at Canton in 1789, although their Tonnage was comparatively ſmall, yet they brought a large Surplus Stock for America. That Surplus Stock was ſent to Oſtend, Holland, &c. but the Quality, originally inferior, was probably further depreciated by its Conveyance from China in ſmall and improper Ships, ſo that it would not ſell for 6*d.* a. 8*d.* per Pound. The greater Part was therefore returned to America, who has ſince imported conſiderably from Europe for her own Conſumption.

It is therefore by no means clear that the Article of Freight will in any point of View facilitate the expectation of Individuals in a material Degree. So long as the excluſive Privilege and their political Reſources ſhall remain combined and continued to the Engliſh Company, Competitors or Interlopers may find their Account for a few Ships; but when all Europe and America are contending for the Prize, one or two Ships more than wanted muſt ruin the whole. And when loſs ariſes upon an Indian Adventure it is frequently more than private Capitals can ſupport.

With regard to the China Trade ſeparately, it is evident, from what has been ſtated, that Foreigners cannot enter into a Competition. It is for the Intereſt of the Chineſe to attach themſelves to the Engliſh Company, in prefer-

ence to all others; the uniformity of their Demand, the extent of their Dealings, and the honor and punctuality with which they have tranſacted their Buſineſs will always enſure to them a decided preference in Quality and Price, which is more than ſufficient to counteract any difference that can ariſe from the Freight. It is therefore natural for thoſe who know their true Intereſt to prefer any other means than thoſe of Competition, which muſt be productive of prejudicial Conſequences in the end.

If Doubts ſhall ſtill remain with regard to Freight, they will be removed by a farther Remark, that Ireland has not Ships of a Size and Deſcription proper for the Trade. The Merchants at Oſtend, who are under no Reſtraint nor Limitation, find it their Intereſt to purchaſe the Company's Ships in the River Thames, after they have performed their Voyages; they are frequently fitted out and even loaded from thence, to proceed in the firſt Inſtance to Oſtend, and afterwards to India. Such a Commerce and ſuch a Navigation are undoubtedly injurious to the Engliſh Company, but never can prove beneficial to Ireland. There is however one Point remaining, which is very alluring to uninformed and ſanguine Minds, from the difficulty which ariſes in proving a Negative in conſequence of the Myſtery with which the Subject is conſtantly enveloped. It is not unlikely but that ſome Perſons in Ireland may conceive that an illicit Trade ſubſiſts, or may be carried on, to an extent which the nature of the Caſe will not admit. This Subject may be conſidered under three ſeparate Heads,

An excluſive Company in Ireland, ſupported by Britiſh Proprietors or their Capitals

An illicit Trade beetwen Great Britain and India, carried on by Britiſh Capitals through the medium of Ireland.

And an illicit Trade by ſmuggling the Articles of India and China from Ireland into Great Britain, for the Purpoſe of defrauding the Revenue.

When the Darien Company was eſtabliſhed in Scotland, it appeared that the greater Part of the Capital was Engliſh. The Fate of that Company and the Situation of every other foreign Company at preſent, would render any Attempt of that Kind abortive, and therefore, if there ſhall be an Excluſive Company, the Capital muſt in all probability be furniſhed by Ireland.

The illicit Trade carried on with Britiſh Capitals, has hitherto depended on Two Sources, forming different Objects, the One was for the Purpoſe of realizing in Europe the Fortunes which had been acquired in India, the other by Adventurers embarking their Capitals with a View to profit.

The firſt Object is almoſt annihilated; the Fortunes which have been lately acquired are few in Number, and moderate in their extent; whilſt the Permiſſion given to the Government of Bengal to draw upon the Company for Five Millions Sterling, for the Purpoſe of liquidating the Debts in India, and the Encouragement which has been given to Private Trade, has continued, and

will continue for many Years, to furniſh more extenſive Means to Individuals to remit home their private Fortunes than they can poſſibly require. And with regard to Adventurers, they can carry on their illicit Trade with more Convenience, much cheaper and with numerous ſuperior Advantages through Oſtend; ſo that nothing but extreme Ignorance can induce Perſons of that Deſcription to avail themſelves of the Medium of Ireland. A very ſuperficial View of the Subject will remove every Expectation that may be formed in Ireland of benefiting by Smuggling, or Frauds upon the Britiſh Revenue. The wonderful Improvements in our Cotton Manufactures have almoſt annihilated the Conſumption of the Manufactures of India in Great-Britain: ſo that it is probable Ireland could not procure Goods in India, which, after a circuitous Route through Ireland, could be ſold in England for their Coſt. In reſpect to Tea, it is preſumed that the Duty of 12½ per Cent. never can afford Encouragement to the Smuggler, more particularly as the ſuperior Advantages which the Company enjoy in purchaſing their Inveſtment, will compenſate the Difference. And it ſhould be obſerved, that in the article of Freight, which has been already diſcuſſed, the difference between the higheſt and the loweſt rate of Freight is not more than 1d¼ to 1d½ per pound weight, conſequently there is no margin left for Smuggling on that Article.

There is another Circumſtance which will effectually deſtroy every expectation of the illicit Traders of every Deſcription, viz. The neceſſity that Ireland will be under, of placing all Articles imported from India and China, with regard to Duties and Drawbacks, on the ſame footing as thoſe Articles are ſubject to, when imported into Great Britain; as it cannot be expected that Ireland ſhould enjoy ſuperior Advantages in this reſpect. At the ſame time eſtabliſhing Regulations in Ireland ſimilar to our own, will not only extinguiſh every Attempt at illicit Practices in the moſt important Articles, Piece Goods and Tea, but will very probably annihilate the Expectation of the Fair Trader altogether.

The Duty which remains on Callicoes is about 3 per Cent. and on Muſlins, 8 per Cent. beſides Intereſt and Charges, after the Drawback has been paid, and to which Oſtend (in addition to many other Advantages) is not liable. The Duty on Tea is much more conſiderable. Before the Year 1784, it amounted to

£. 27	10*d.*	per Cent. Cuſtom, paid on the Sale Amount.
25	per Cent. and 11. per Pound Weight	Exciſe on Ditto
15		per Cent. on the Produce of the above Exciſe Duties.

The whole of which was done away in the Year 1784, and commuted for a Tax upon Windows and 12½ per Cent. on the Price which the Tea ſells for at the Company's Sale.

Conſequently Ireland muſt impoſe either the Duties which exiſted before the Year 1784, or a Tax upon Windows, equivalent to that which is paid in

Great-Britain, together with the 12½ per Cent. on the Value of the Tea; Circumſtances ſo manifeſtly to the Diſadvantage of Ireland, that it becomes neceſſary to form a correct Statement for her Information, and which will be found in the Appendix, No. 2. App. No. 2.

Having thus diſcuſſed the Subject in a general Manner and under a few Heads, it may be right to conſider in what Manner and to what extent Competition may be carried on between Great Britain and Ireland. This reduces itſelf into a very narrow Compaſs.

The illicit Trade is entirely out of the Queſtion: Ireland is neither ſituated nor calculated for it, and if ſhe were, the good Senſe and liberality of that Nation would revolt at the Idea. She has no Ships, and when it is conſidered Veſſels of a proper Size and Conſtruction are highly Expenſive, and fit for no other Trade, it is doubtful whether Individuals will engage in building them. She has no Articles for Exportation, at leaſt none that will ſtand a Competition with thoſe of Great Britain. The regular Imports from India are trifling. The Competition or rather the Benefit which Ireland can expect to derive, is very much confined to the China Trade, and therefore ſome further Inveſtigation may be proper.

The Diſadvantage under which the Export, or Means of purchaſing an Inveſtment in China labours, has been already deſcribed. The whole, or very near the whole muſt be paid for in Bullion.

This is not the only Diſadvantage. She will have a Competition to encounter with the Engliſh Company in the Purchaſe of Teas; in the Courſe of which ſhe will experience Difficulties which cannot be underſtood without ſome Practical Knowledge of the Trade. The Chineſe are a ſingular and extraordinary People: ſo that Ireland will not obtain the ſame preference in China that might be expected elſewhere, becauſe the Payment for the Tea is made in Bullion. The Punctuality and Honor with which the Engliſh Company have always tranſacted their Buſineſs, not a ſingle Inſtance of Fraud or Deception having appeared, although the annual Exports have exceeded half a Million Sterling excluſive of Bullion; the ſteady uniform Demand, whilſt the Purchaſes extend to Three Fourths, and ſometimes near Seven Eighths of the whole of the Tea exported from China; theſe are Circumſtances which will give the Engliſh a decided Preference, more particularly when contraſted with the Frauds the Chineſe have experienced from other Nations, and the Fluctuations which frequently happen in their Demand.

The Conſequence is, that the Engliſh muſt always have the choice of the Chops or Growths; at the ſame Time that they can conſtantly dictate the Market Price, leaving the Refuſe to others, which has been the Cauſe of ſome late unfortunate Adventures.

The Tea delivered from the Company's Warehouſes for the Whole of the Year 1792, has amounted to lb. 17,500,000

The

The Whole of the Exportation to all Parts was only	lb.	2,200,000
And the Value of the Tea exported is	£.	320,000
The average Quantity exported for Five Years is, per Annum,	lb.	4,000,000
And the average annual Value,	£.	595,000

No Account is kept at the India Houſe to what place Tea is exported; it is difficult to be procured from the Cuſtoms; and ſuch Information is allowed to be incorrect. But after making a Deduction for what is ſent to the Weſt-Indies, America, and the Continent, the Remainder, which is much the larger Part, is for Ireland. And that the Importance of the Conſumption of Ireland may not be leſſened, ſuppoſe it is in Quantity lb. 1,750,000, and in Value £. 250,000.

In the Manner that Ireland is ſupplied at preſent, One-fourth, or One-Third Part of that Value will be ſufficient Capital for the Trade; as it is preſumed Three or at moſt Four Months, are Time enough to have Returns from Ireland; and if Credit becomes a Conſideration, it belongs more properly to the Dealer or Tradeſman who charges an Intereſt or Profit for his Diſburſe. This indeed does not attach to the Conſideration of the preſent Queſtion.

Thoſe who underſtand Trade, and the Facility which accompanies a larger and general Circulation, will eaſily comprehend this Doctrine. But for thoſe who do not, let it be ſuppoſed that the annual Value of Tea conſumed in Ireland, amounting to £. 250,000 requires a Capital equal to half that Extent or £. 125,000.

Neither the Ingenuity nor the Ignorance of Man can ſwell that Value; and which, at preſent, is paid for by an Interchange of the Manufactures and Produce of Ireland.

Whatever may be the general Opinion with regard to India, no doubt can be entertained, that from the Nature of the Chineſe Government, a Trade with China cannot be carried on to advantage, except by an excluſive Company.

But in any Event the following Eſtimate of the Capital neceſſary for the Purpoſe, will be nearly the ſame.

A Voyage to and from China can be performed in Twelve Months, and yet it becomes neceſſary to provide a Capital equal to the Value of Three Sets of Ships, and Two Years and a Half of the Stock of Tea conſumed in the Country,

If Ireland conſumes lb. 1,750,000 of Tea annually, it will require at leaſt Two Ships of 800 Tons. The Value of each is about £. 20,000; being leſs than what the Company's Ships now coſt. This for Two Ships, is per Annum £. 40,000; and for Three Years — — — £. 120,000

lb. 1,750,000 of Tea for One Year is for Two and a Half Years lb. 4,375,000 which ſuppoſe at 2s. excluſive of Freight — 437,500

£. 557,500

From this muſt be deducted the Credit (if any) which may be received with the Ships. But, if the Ships ſhall be built in Ireland, that Credit becomes nugatory, as the Capital will be Iriſh.

The ſecond Fleet of Ships is ſcarcely diſpatched before the firſt arrives. But it is neceſſary always to Import more than is conſumed, as the Demand varies from one Quality to another, and which cannot be foreſeen. The Company have frequently had from Four to Six Thouſand Tons of Tea in their Warehouſes of a perfect Quality; but which, from the Faſhion of the Day, has been invendible, and which they have kept for a conſiderable Time before it could be ſold. Therefore, although Two Setts of Ships may, at firſt Sight, appear ſufficient, yet, when Allowance is made for occaſional Detention, Miſcarriage, and Surplus Stock, the Number required will not be found too great.

Perhaps it may be thought deſirable for Ireland to increaſe her Shipping; but it ſhould be in Ships of an inferior Size and Value, applicable to other Trades, Ships proper for the Indian Seas not being fit for any other; which is evident from the very ſmall Sum for which an India Ship will ſell after ſhe has been diſcharged from the Company's Service.

Suppoſe, for a Moment, that, from a Principle of public Spirit, Ireland ſhould build a Sett of Ships of the Deſcription alluded to, and (what is not unlikely) that the Company, from the Superiority of her Qualities and Aſſortments, ſhould very innocently furniſh Means to the Britiſh Smuggler to introduce Tea into Ireland. The Conſequence will be, either that the Iriſh Company muſt be ruined, or that the Government of the Country will ſtep forward in their Support; and in that Caſe the Malady will receive a temporary Relief, but not a Cure.

This leads to the further Conſideration of the Diſpoſition of Ireland to prop and ſupport public Undertakings. The Conſequences of ſuch Support, with reſpect to the India and China Trade, are exemplified in the preſent Situation of the Dutch Company. In the Year 1780, being previous to the War, the whole Debts of that Company, in Europe and India, very little exceeded One Million Sterling. Since the War, the ſame Company have borrowed, under the Guarantee of the States, *in Europe only*, between Nine and Ten Millions Sterling, the Repayment of any Part of which is extremely dubious, as the Dutch Eaſt-India Company is, at this Moment, in an embarraſſed and diſtreſſed Situation. So late as in December 1792, a Loan of Four Millions of Guilders was attempted to be raiſed for them, without Succeſs.

The Eaſt-India Company in Denmark has been for ſome Time in a State of Bankruptcy, and upheld ſolely by the King. For ſuch has been the Jealouſy excited by the Proſperity of the Engliſh Company, that every Country is deſirous of ſupporting rival Eſtabliſhments, although prejudicial to their real Intereſts and Welfare. But the Inſtance of the Dutch Company proves that, although they may exiſt in Time of Peace, aided by ſuch Reſources as that Republic poſſeſs in India; yet a very ſhort War is ſufficient to annihilate the whole of the Capital employed in Three or Four Year's Trade.

It is the ſingular and unprecedented good Fortune of Great Britain, that in combining and realizing the territorial Revenue through the Medium of Commerce, aided by her Reſources, Manufactures, and immenſe internal Traffic and Conſumption, ſhe ſtands unrivalled amidſt ſurrounding and contending Nations, and bids defiance to all Competition.

Under theſe Circumſtances it is preſumed that Ireland will not ſolicit for any Thing that ſhall be deemed injurious to the Company, and to the Britiſh Nation, unleſs it can be clearly ſhewn to be of real Utility to herſelf upon the Principle of fair Trade. And, we truſt, that Men of large and liberal Minds in Ireland, will not perſiſt in Meaſures which may convulſe and endanger the Loſs of a great Empire, for the Sake of Advantages which Individuals may poſſibly derive from illicit Practices, whether thoſe Practices affect the East-India Company, or the Britiſh Revenue.

At preſent, and excluſive of the Circumſtances of becoming Proprietors with the reſt of the World, the Natives of Ireland participate with thoſe of Great Britain in all Employments Civil and Military; they have become Members of Government, and enjoyed the higheſt Poſts in the Service. A large Portion of the Revenues and Commerce of India has flowed into Ireland, and contributed towards its general Proſperity, in the ſame manner as the reſt of His Majeſty's Dominions. Theſe Advantages, although gradual are ſubſtantial and permanent, and will tend infinitely more towards rendering the Country flouriſhing, than any Syſtem adverſe to the Engliſh Company; which muſt be founded in jealouſy, and conducted with conſtant Rivalſhip and Competition, whilſt it is pregnant with the Ruin of One Party, and Miſchief to all.

East-India Houſe,
the 22d January, 1793.

F. Baring,
John Smith Burges,
John Manship,
John Hunter,
W. Elphinstone,
Hugh Inglis.

APPENDIX, No. I.

Extract General Letter from Canton, dated 12th December, 1789.

Par. 32. The Tabinets, per Earl Mansfield and Walpole, were found, on opening, to be mildewed and spotted, notwithstanding every possible Attention had apparently been paid to the packing of them, and there was no Appearance of outward Damage.

Par. 33. Shy Kinqua has consented to take them at prime Cost, but requests no more may be sent; not only on Account of their being so liable to spoil, but that they are held in no Estimation by the Chinese, as they have a Manufacture of their own, which very much resembles it, and can be afforded much cheaper.

APPENDIX, No. 2.

THE following Statement will shew what Price the different Sorts of Tea would coſt to the Dealers in Ireland, without affording any Profit to the Importer on the Old Duties, compared to what the ſame may be purchaſed for at this Time at the Company's Sales.

	Bohea			Congou			Souchong			Singlo			Twankay			Hyſ. Skin			Hyſon.		
Coſt per net lb of Teas arrived from China in 1792, at 5s. 3½d. per old Mexico Dollar, equal to 7s. 4d. $\frac{20}{100}$ per Tale, with Freight, Charges of Merchandize, Inſurance and Intereſt.	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec
	1	3	96	2	5	35	3	5	84	2	2	53	2	5	13	2	4	77	4	6	53
Cuſtom £. 27 0s. 10d. per cent.		5	91		10	87		1	3 51		9	83		10	79		10	66		1 8	21
Price at which the Teas muſt ſell to pay the Cuſtom, and leave the Prime Coſt to the Importers.	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec
	1	9	87	3	4	22	4	9	35	3	0	36	3	3	92	3	3	43	6	2	74
Exciſe to be paid thereon £.25 per cent.		5	47		10	05		12	34		9	09		9	98		9	86		1 6	68
1s. per lb.	1			1			1			1			1			1			1		
£.15 per cent.		2	62		3	30		3	95		3	16		3	29		3	28		4	60
Coſt to the Dealers in Ireland without leaving any Profit to the Importer.	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec
	3	5	96	5	5	57	7	3	64	5	0	61	5	5	19	5	4	57	9	2	02

If any Thing is added with a View to leaving a Profit to the Importer the - £. 27 0 10 / 25 / 15 } per Cent. muſt alſo be taken thereon, to ſhew the Prices they will then come at to the Dealers.

Preſent Coſt of Teas to the Iriſh.

	Bohea			Congou			Souchong			Singlo			Twankay			Hyſ. Skin			Hyſon.		
Average Sale Price at the Eaſt-India Company's laſt Sale.	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec	s	d	dec
	1	6	90	3	0	90	3	11	40	2	5	90	2	4	70	2	9	60	5	5	10
Duty in Ireland, about -		6			6			6			6			6			6			6	
Freight to Ireland and all Charges about - -		1			1			1			1			1			1			2	
	2	1	90	3	7	90	4	6	40	3	0	96	2	11	70	3	4	60	6	0	10